



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

DATE: September 18, 2012

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(b): Consideration of resolution authorizing application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a grant of habitat restoration mitigation funds from Caltrans Santa Clara River impacts, and authorizing acceptance of said grant and funds.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a grant of \$302,400 in habitat restoration mitigation funds for a restoration project in the Upper Santa Clara River watershed.

Background: A three-way agreement between the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy), Caltrans, and the Army Corps of Engineers was signed in August 2011. In October 2011 the Conservancy received a \$302,400 check from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to fund 1.4 acres of riparian habitat restoration in the Upper Santa Clara River watershed. The money was deposited into the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Fund (Conservancy Fund). The funding is an approved appropriation in the State budget.

The Conservancy and MRCA have a successful program to implement habitat mitigation required of Caltrans.

Staff is working with the Army Corps of Engineers to identify potential restoration sites.

The proposed action also authorizes a request for an advance of \$151,200 (half of the total \$302,400 amount) from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Fund to cover costs of project permitting and project initiation.